



NASA'S FY2013 BUDGET REQUEST

President Obama submitted his FY2013 budget request to Congress on February 13, 2012. For NASA, he is requesting \$17.711 billion, which is a slight decrease from the agency's funding level of \$17.770 billion for FY2012 (Congress appropriated \$17.800 billion, but also included a rescission that reduced that amount by \$30 million).

The table below shows the FY2012 appropriated level (as adjusted) and the FY2013 request and tracks congressional action as the debate progresses. All the numbers are from FY2013 budget material posted at NASA's budget website <http://www.nasa.gov/budget>.

As usual, NASA changed some of its accounts and subaccounts this year making it difficult to compare figures from one year to another. Also, in some cases – notably funding for the Space Launch System (SLS) – program funding may appear in more than one line in the budget. According to NASA, the total request for SLS is \$1.88 billion, including the amounts in the SLS and Exploration Ground Systems lines under Human Exploration and Operations, plus \$143.7 million in the Construction and Environmental Compliance and Remediation Account.

“Commercial Spaceflight” in the Exploration account is a reference to development of “commercial crew” systems only. The funding NASA plans to pay for commercial *cargo* services developed through the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) program is in the International Space Station budget under Crew and Cargo Transportation.

Current Status

As of September 15, 2012, Congress has not completed action on any of the FY2013 appropriations bills. As detailed below, the House passed the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill that includes NASA on May 10. The Senate has not passed its version of the bill, but it was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 19. No further action has occurred and Congress is now in the process of passing a FY2013 Continuing Resolution (H. J. Res. 117) that will fund NASA at its FY2012 level for the first six months of FY2013 (through March 27, 2013).

Key Aspects of House and Senate Action to Date

The Senate Appropriations CJS subcommittee marked up its version of the FY2013 appropriations bill that includes NASA (and NOAA) on April 17, followed by full committee markup on April 19 (S. 2323, S. Rept. 112-158). The House CJS subcommittee marked up on April 19, followed by full committee markup on April 26 (H.R. 5326, H. Rept. 112-462). The House passed its bill May 10 [after adopting an amendment that cuts \\$126 million from the Cross Agency Support](#) budget line in order to pay for a community policing program at the Department of Justice. Several other amendments to take money from NASA to use elsewhere were defeated.

Senate Proposal to Move NOAA Satellite Programs to NASA. A major change in the Senate committee's action on the bill is that it wants to move the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) satellite programs to NASA and shifted the associated \$1.6 billion from NOAA's budget to NASA's. NOAA would continue to operate weather/environmental satellites, but development and procurement of the satellites would be done by NASA. NASA already is the acquisition agent for NOAA's satellites, but NOAA manages the programs, obtains the money, and reimburses NASA for its work. The Senate committee's proposal would put NASA directly in charge of the programs. A Senate Appropriations Committee [press release](#) states that it will save \$117 million in FY2013 alone.

The Senate committee created a new budget account, Operational Satellite Acquisition, in NASA's budget for this activity. The Senate committee's recommended total for NASA therefore is \$19.4 billion. If the NOAA funds are not included, the Senate committee report states that it is recommending \$47.1 million more than the FY2013 request, which would be \$17,758.5 billion

The House did not take similar action.

Robotic Mars Exploration. NASA's plans to send robotic probes to Mars is a topic of considerable interest this year because NASA withdrew from planned participation in two Mars missions with the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2016 and 2018 because of budget concerns. It is now defining what it calls a new, affordable Mars mission in a project called Mars Next Decade under the Mars Exploration program in the Planetary Science budget.

NASA requested \$360.8 million in total for Mars Exploration for FY2013, of which \$62 million is for Mars Next Decade. The Senate added \$100 million to the \$360.8 million request for planetary science, stating in its report (p. 91) that its funding is to be used in part to support any re-planned Mars program and "to retain U.S. competencies in areas such as entry, descent and landing (EDL)."

The House approved \$150 million for Mars Next Decade, an \$88 million increase above the request. The House report states (pp. 65-66) that the added funds are for the new Mars mission NASA is currently defining as long as the National Research Council certifies that the mission supports the top priority goal for large missions enunciated in the [2011 NRC Decadal Survey for planetary science](#), which is for a series of missions that ultimately would return a sample of Mars to Earth. If the NRC does not make that certification, the money is to be used for second priority mission in that study, which is a mission to Jupiter's moon Europa. (The House also added \$115.4 million for the Discovery and New Frontiers programs and \$3.5 million for planetary science research and analysis, a total increase of \$206.9 million for planetary science above the request.)

Commercial Crew. The House and the Senate committee both cut NASA's request for commercial crew as shown in the table below. The House report (p. 71-72) directs NASA to choose ("downselect") one or at most two companies instead of financially supporting four companies (Blue Origin, Boeing, Sierra Nevada and SpaceX) as it does now and to use a traditional form of contracting under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) instead of the Space Act Agreements now in place. NASA had planned to transition to FAR-based contracting last year, but changed its mind in December because budget uncertainties led to a desire for greater flexibility provided by the SAA approach.

The Senate committee report does not go that far, but encourages (p. 98) NASA to "be mindful ... not to take on obligations to more companies than can be practically supported" and notes

that NASA assured the committee any subsequent phase of the program would use FAR-based contracting.

In August 2012, NASA [chose](#) “2 ½” companies to fund pursuant to [an agreement](#) with congressional leaders led by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) who chairs the House CJS appropriations subcommittee. The “2 ½” refers to funding two companies (SpaceX and Boeing) at their full request and one company (Sierra Nevada) at approximately half.

NASA's FY2013 Budget Request (in \$ millions)

Account	FY2012 Approps	FY2013 Request	House- passed (HR 5326)	Senate Approps Cmte
Science	5,073.7	4,911.2	5,095.0	5,021.0
<i>Earth Science</i>	1,760.5	1,784.8	1,775.0	1,784.7
<i>Planetary Science</i>	1,501.4	1,192.3	*1,400.0	*1,292.3
<i>Astrophysics</i>	672.7	659.4	650.0	669.4
<i>JWST</i>	518.6	627.6	628.0	627.6
<i>Heliophysics</i>	620.5	647.0	642.0	647.0
Operational Satellite Acquisition †			<i>not applicable</i>	† 1,641.1
Aeronautics	569.4	551.5	569.9	551.5
Space Technology	573.7	699.0	632.5	651.0
Exploration	3,712.8	3,932.8	3,711.9	3,908.9
<i>Exploration Sys & Dev</i>	3,007.1	2,769.4	2,881.9	<i>not used by cmte</i>
<i>(Orion MPCV)</i>	(1,200.0)	(1,024.9)	(1,024.9)	(1,200.0)
<i>(SLS)</i>	(1,502.6)	(1,340.0)	(1,857.0)	(1,481.9)
<i>(Expl Ground Systems)</i>	(304.5)	(404.5)	<i>included in SLS</i>	(394.0)
<i>Commercial Spaceflight</i>	406.0	829.7	500.0	525.0
<i>Exploration R&D</i>	299.7	333.7	330.0	308.0
<i>(Human Res Prog)</i>	(157.7)	(164.7)	<i>not specified</i>	<i>not specified</i>
<i>(Adv. Expl Systems)</i>	(142.0)	(169.0)	<i>not specified</i>	<i>not specified</i>
Space Operations	4,187.0	4,013.2	3,985.0	3,961.7
<i>Space Shuttle</i>	556.2	70.6	70.0	70.0
<i>ISS</i>	2,829.9	3,007.6	2,990.0	2,957.6
<i>(ISS Ops & Mgmt)</i>	(1,418.7)	(1,493.5)	<i>not specified</i>	<i>not specified</i>
<i>(ISS Research)</i>	(222.5)	(229.3)	<i>not specified</i>	<i>not specified</i>
<i>(Crew & Cargo Trans)</i>	(1,185.7)	(1,284.8)	<i>not specified</i>	<i>not specified</i>
<i>Sp & Flt Support</i>	800.9	935.0	925.0	893.0
<i>21st Cntry Lnch Cmplx</i> ‡				‡ 41.1
Education	136.1	100.0	100.0	125.0
<i>Aerosp Res/Career Dev</i>	56.1	33.0	33.0	<i>not used by cmte</i>
<i>(Space Grant)</i>	(38.9)	(24.0)	(24.0)	40.0
<i>(EPSCoR)</i>	(17.3)	(9.0)	(9.0)	18.0
<i>STEM Ed/Accntabilty</i>	80.0	67.0	67.0	27.0
<i>MUREP</i>			(30.0)	30.0
<i>NASA Visitors Centers</i>			<i>not applicable</i>	10.0
Cross-Agency Spprt	2,993.9	2,847.5	**2,717.4	2,822.5
CECR	487.0	619.2	598.0	679.0
Inspector General	38.3	37.0	38.0	37.8
Prior Approps Accts	-1.0	0.0		
Total	††17,770.0	17,711.4	**17,447.8	19,399.6
(Total w/o Op Sat Acquisition) †				† (17,758.5)

Totals may not add due to rounding. See notes on next page.

Figures for the FY2012 appropriations and FY2013 request are from NASA's FY2013 budget material at <http://www.nasa.gov/budget>. Figures for the House-passed bill are from the committee's report (H. Rept. 112-463) [adjusted for the amendment adopted during floor debate on May 8, 2012 reducing the Cross Agency Support line by \\$126 million](#). Figures for the Senate committee bill are from the committee's report (S. Rept. 112-158).

Numbers in italics are subsets. Numbers in italics (in parentheses) are sub-subsets. Note that in the education account, the Senate committee did not use the subsets in the NASA budget request, and the House broke out the figure for the Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP), \$30 million, and the remaining \$37 million is generally for STEM Education and Accountability Projects.

*In the House, not less than \$150 million for Mars Next Decade (an increase of \$88 million above the request). In the Senate, \$100 million is restored for Mars exploration resulting in a total of \$461 for Mars exploration, of which Mars Next Decade is a part. See preceding text for further information.

** Reflects House adoption of an amendment during floor debate that cuts \$126 million from NASA's Cross Agency Support account.

† As discussed in the preceding text, the Senate bill calls for the weather/environmental satellite programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to be transferred to NASA, along with their funding.

†† Although Congress included a \$30 million rescission to the \$18.000 billion it provided NASA for FY2012, in their reports, the House and Senate committees show \$18.000 billion as the appropriated level. NASA's budget books show \$17.770 billion, reflecting the rescission. The numbers in this table for FY2012 are from NASA's budget books.

‡ 21st Century Launch Complex is included in NASA's request for Space and Flight Support. The Senate committee chose to break it out separately, but recommended the same amount as the request, \$41.1 million. The funding is to revitalize infrastructure primarily at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.